



Fire Management Plan Management Framework

There are a variety of laws, regulations, policies, and planning documents that contribute to the management framework for revising the Fire Management Plan. These set the sideboards and direction for the planning efforts, as well as defining the process, timeline and, in some cases, the issues to be addressed.

"...to promote and regulate the use of the...national parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

National Park Service Organic Act, 16 U.S.C

NPS Management Policies

The "fundamental purpose" of the national park system... begins with a mandate to conserve park resources and values. The purpose of all parks also includes providing for the enjoyment of park resources and values by the people of the United States.



Congress, recognizing that the enjoyment by future generations of the national parks can be ensured only if the superb quality of park resources and values is left unimpaired, has provided that when there is a conflict between conserving resources and values and providing for enjoyment of them, conservation is to be predominant.

National Park Service Management Policies 2001



National Park Service wildland fire management activities are essential to the protection of human life, personal property and irreplaceable natural and cultural resources, and to the accomplishment of the NPS mission

NPS Policies, Director's Order (DO) 18:
Wildland Fire Management

"Each park with vegetation capable of burning will prepare a fire management plan to guide a fire management program that is responsive to the park's natural and cultural resource objectives and to safety considerations for park visitors, employees, and developed facilities."

Director's Order 18: Wildland Fire Management



These fire management plans must comply with the 2001 Federal Fire Policy and the National Fire Plan and be prepared according to the guidelines set out in Chapter 4 of NPS Reference Manual 18.

The NPS Fire Management Leadership Board conducted a service-wide status determination of fire management plans in 2000 and found that more than 50% of the parks were lacking fire plans or had plans that needed updating. Grand Canyon National Park is one of the parks that needs an update of its fire management plan. The plan must be completed by Fall 2004.

Fire & Wilderness Management

Fire management activities conducted in wilderness areas will conform to the basic purposes of wilderness. The park's fire management and wilderness management plans must identify and reconcile the natural and historic roles of fire in the wilderness, and will provide a prescription for response, if any, to natural and human-caused wildfires. Actions taken to suppress wildfires will use the minimum requirement concept, and will be conducted in such a way as to protect natural and cultural features and to minimize the lasting impacts of the suppression actions and the fires themselves.

National Park Service Management Policies, Directors Order (DO) 41:
Wilderness Management and Preservation



The park's Fire Management Plan will be updated to be consistent with the direction of the management objectives of the GMP. It will also specifically address the restoration of the natural fire regime in wilderness areas, using practices consistent with the wilderness management policies including the Minimum Requirement Analysis Process

1995 General Management Plan

